



THE OMAHA DAILY BEE

THE WEATHER
Continued Cold

XLVII—NO. 167.

OMAHA, SATURDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 29, 1917.—FOURTEEN PAGES.

On Trains, At Hotels,
News Stands, Etc., 5c.

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PEACE CONFERENCE OFF TILL JANUARY; M'ADOO NOW IN CHARGE OF RAIL LINES

ALL ROADS OF UNITED STATES PASSED INTO GOVERNMENT CONTROL AT NOON FRIDAY

Secretary McAdoo Issues First Official Order as Director-General; Competition Eliminated, Traffic Pooled and Rerouted Over Most Direct Lines; Salaries to be Cut and Wages Increased.

Washington, Dec. 28.—At noon today the approximately 250,000 miles of American railway systems silently merged into one great continental chain for the winning of the war.

Under President Wilson's decision, the great event, regarded by many as the opening of a new epoch in government operation and control of public utilities, passed by without formal ceremony.

Director General McAdoo was conferring at the time with the members of the railroad war board and Robert S. Lovett, chairman of the priority shipment committee.

Members of the war board—all railroad executives—pledged their support to the government administration, as has practically every railroad man in the country.

Orders for the actual unification of the lines, common use of facilities and equipment, which are expected to raise the freight jam immediately, will be the first results.

ALL TRAFFIC POOLED.

At noon, the hour fixed by President Wilson's proclamation effecting governmental possession, Secretary McAdoo, the new director of railroads, was ready with his first official order designed to pool all traffic, equipment and terminals to relieve the congestion which has gripped the country since the outbreak of the war.

The immediate result of the order will be to wipe out competition and reroute traffic over the shortest lines. Shipments will move directly to their destination regardless of the company with which they originate and terminals will be used in common to effect maximum efficiency. Speedy movement of freight will be the first duty of the director general.

Salaries to be Cut.

Retention of present railroad officials and employees seems assured, but indications are that huge salaries of railroad executives will be reduced and wages of operatives increased.

President Wilson conferred with chiefs of the four railroad brotherhoods yesterday and received their pledge of loyalty to the government administration.

The brotherhoods have demands for 10 per cent wage increases pending with the railroads, but the government's definite attitude in this matter has not been disclosed. It is understood President Wilson assured the brotherhood chiefs that railroad employees would not be called in the next or even a second draft.

Retention also of Judge Robert S. Lovett, director of priority of war industries board, is considered likely. Appointment of a government traffic manager to supervise only government shipments and co-ordinate preferential instructions now issued by the food and fuel administrations and the quartermaster's corps, has been recommended to the director general and a member of the fuel administration may be added to Mr. McAdoo's staff.

Reimbursement Problem.

Other problems confronting the government are the reimbursement of roads for the use of their properties on the basis of pre-war earnings, financing the necessary improvements and the building of additional lines. Special legislation, which already has been drafted along the lines suggested in President Wilson's proclamation, will be required to settle these questions. If congress follows the president's recommendations for guaranteeing the roads a net earning equivalent to the average of the last three years, the government will be obligated to the extent of \$98,424,885, the average annual earnings of all the roads for the three years ending June 30 last.

The Weather

Nebraska—Continued cold. Temperatures at Omaha yesterday.

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FOOD SURVEY TO SHOW ALL STOCKS ON HAND IN OMAHA

Three Agencies Established From Which Comprehensive Inventory Will Be Made; Affects Every Person.

To facilitate the taking of the national inventory of foods in Omaha and vicinity the bureau of markets of the United States Department of Agriculture, which has the war emergency food survey in charge, has placed agencies of the survey with its three local offices.

The offices are at 742 Brandeis building, in charge of F. L. Wallace; 4930 South Twenty-fourth street, in charge of William Fisk; 506-508 Farman building in charge of B. B. Jones.

Copies of the schedule have been mailed from Washington to most dealers in food materials in Omaha. Names of new concerns and of a few others were not available, however, and arrangements have been made, therefore, to supply them locally. Applications for schedules should not be made to the local agency before January 2. This will permit schedules mailed from Washington to reach their destination and thus eliminate duplication.

Persons Required to Report.

The local agents of the survey point out that the act of congress providing for the war emergency food survey requires every dealer in and manufacturer of foods or food materials and every holder of such commodities in lots substantially greater than family supplies, to fill out a schedule and mail it to the chief of the bureau of markets, Washington, D. C., by January 10, 1918, and fixes the penalties for failure to do so.

This includes not only all wholesale and retail dealers in foods and feeds, public warehousemen and food and feed manufacturers, regardless of the size of the stocks which they hold, also those in charge of hotels, restaurants, commissaries of industrial concerns, schools, institutions, providing that their stocks on hand have a value of \$250 or more. Even manufacturers are included who use a food product in the preparation of another product which cannot be considered a food, such as bottling, chewing gum and drug manufacturing concerns.

FIND GROUND GLASS IN RICE AT CAMP DODGE

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

Des Moines, Dec. 28.—(Special.)—Particles of glass shaped and so made as to resemble small kernels of rice, were found today in large quantities in a supply of rice at Camp Dodge. This is the second discovery of glass in the food stores at the big camp.

Vigilance on the part of Uncle Sam's secret service men and army officers has thus far prevented use of any foodstuffs tampered with. The glass was found in the rice after thoroughly washing the grain in water. The glass being heavier, settled to the bottom of the dish.

Fires in a number of small grocery stores of late, lead army officials to suspect that German agents are working to destroy foodstuffs. Orders have been issued at Camp Dodge to kill or capture any one attempting to set fire to buildings at the big camp.

Allied Fliers Make Brilliant Showing in Recent Sky Battle

(By Associated Press.)

Italian Headquarters in Northern Italy, Thursday, Dec. 27.—Further reports of the attempt of Austrian aviators yesterday to raid Treviso, which resulted so disastrously for them, emphasize the brilliant work done by both Italian and British aviators.

Although 11 Austrian machines were brought down, only a few Italian airplanes were damaged. Five Italian and one British soldier were killed. Six Italian and eight British soldiers were wounded.

The British airmen brought down two machines and British anti-aircraft guns accounted for three more, six Austrians in these five machines being killed and four wounded. Among the prisoners is a young Austrian major who is unwounded.

Reds Refuse Pass of American Diplomat

Stockholm, Dec. 28.—An American diplomatic courier on his way to Petrograd has been refused admission to Russia on the ground that his pass had not been vided by M. Borovsky, the Bolshevik minister at Stockholm. This is the first time that a regular courier's pass has not been honored.

It is assumed here that the Bolshevik hope in this way to exert pressure and compel the indirect recognition of their foreign representatives.

NEW MORALS SQUAD NAMED; MURPHY HEAD

McGuire and Wilson Meet With Kugel and Police Troubles Seem to Have Been Cleared.

The appointment of a new morals squad appears to have clarified the atmosphere which was disturbed when T. J. McGuire, special state prosecutor, wrote Superintendent Kugel a lengthy letter in which he charged that certain members of the police department have not been as vigilant as they should have been.

Sergeant Murphy, appointed last week to succeed Sergeant Madsen as head of the morals squad, was given the privilege of appointing his own men, subject to approval by the acting chief of police. The following were chosen: Leroy Wade, Charles Whalen, M. E. Anderson, Ed Vanous, Frank Hoag, W. J. Turner, Frank Aughe and F. M. Dalton.

Sergeant Murphy, formerly head of the morals squad, will work as assistant to Sergeant Murphy.

Regular Detectives.

Charles Chapman, Arthur Cunningham and A. C. Anderson have been transferred from the morals squad to the regular detective department.

Frank Damato, W. F. Cich and G. V. Belitz will return to patrol duty, having completed the special plain clothes work to which they were assigned. R. E. Ford has been assigned to duty at Central police station, and Harry Ulmer will take a beat. The new details for January show there will be some transfers from the South Side to North Side and vice versa.

At a conference held in Superintendent Kugel's office, State Agent Wilson and Prosecutor McGuire expressed satisfaction over the situation.

Sergeant Murphy was given to understand that with a new morals squad of his own choosing, he will be held to account for results. Mr. McGuire explained that he had no desire to stir up unnecessary trouble or controversy, but made it understood that he intends to report future cases of delinquency to the governor.

McGuire Expects Results.

"I believe that the situation has been cleared and that there will be no further trouble. Mr. Wilson appeared pleased with our efforts to co-operate and to get results. We told Sergeant Murphy we will expect results from him and the men now realize what they may expect if they compromise in any manner with the prohibitory law," stated Superintendent Kugel.

"Mr. Kugel knows the men who have been delinquent," stated Prosecutor McGuire.

Sergeant Murphy has enough work in sight to keep his men going for a week. All complaints sent in by the state agents will be followed up immediately by the morals squad. Patrolmen on beats will be expected to know what is going on along their beats.

Labor Official Accepts Job as U. S. Mediator

Bloomington, Ill., Dec. 28.—John B. Lennon, for 27 years treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, today accepted appointment as mediator for the Department of Labor, which was offered him yesterday by Secretary of Labor Wilson.

Mr. Lennon's headquarters will be in Bloomington, as he has been assigned the states of Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Indiana and Missouri.

To Start to Cut Ice Here Saturday Morning

The Lakeside Ice company will begin putting up Carter lake ice early Saturday morning. Between 200 and 300 men will be engaged. The ice this year is said to be as clear as a crystal.

GUARDSMEN HAVE DIED FROM LACK OF CLOTHING

Commander at Camp Bowie, in Senate Probe, Declares Lives Could Have Been Saved if Sufficient Tents and Proper Hospital Facilities Had Been Available.

(By Associated Press.)

Washington, Dec. 28.—Disease epidemics and clothing and equipment shortage at Camp Bowie, Tex., and Camp Doniphan, Okl., were described to the senate military committee by the respective commanders of those National Guard cantonments, Major Generals Greble and Wright.

Both officers said the epidemics at their posts now were under control and that adequate supplies of overcoats had been received, but they gave dismal pictures of earlier conditions.

MERCURY STARTS TO MAKE RECORD, BUT FALLS SHORT

Temperature Remains Below Zero All Friday, Growing Colder as Night Comes On; No Relief in Sight.

Yesterday morning everybody, and probably the weather man included, looked for a record cold day. It started in well, but fell short. However, it was cold and the nipping wind blowing in from the northwest and accompanied by snow flurries, made the weather more disagreeable.

At 4 o'clock in the morning the official reading of the thermometer was 8 degrees below zero and at 5 o'clock it had gone up one degree. It continued there until 10, when it raised another degree. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the warmest hour of the day, 4 degrees below zero was reached. From then on, the temperature dropped gradually, reaching 8 below at 8 o'clock last night.

When you consider that the normal temperature for December 28 is 23 degrees above zero and that the mean or average yesterday was 6 below, there is no question about it having been cold. Still, it was just the thing needed for the ice harvest, but for other purposes it was not desirable.

Continued cold is predicted.

Zero cold in West.

Zero temperatures extended through Kansas and Missouri. The great lake regions have the coldest weather of the winter, a temperature ranging from 12 to 36 below. The coldest reported on the continent was 48 below at Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada.

The thermometer at Morehead, Minn., recorded 31.06 inches Friday morning. Colonel Welsh says it is only once in several winters that such a high barometer occurs.

A freak of the present cold is the fact that it does not extend far to the west. At North Platte the minimum temperature was 4 below zero. At Cheyenne, Wyo., 200 miles west of North Platte, the thermometer stood at 40 above zero. Denver had 24 above.

Warm in West.

"Twenty to 40 degrees above zero; calm, with showers," is the report that comes to the railroads from their stations in Wyoming. According to the report, a Chinook wind Thursday night commenced blowing in from the northwest and, in a short time, the light snow that covered the ground commenced to disappear.

During the night rain set in and became general most of the way from Casper to Laramie. This was the kind of weather that was general (Continued on Page Two, Column Four.)

Dwiggins Sentenced to Three Years at Atlanta

New York, Dec. 28.—Elmer Dwiggins, charged with using the mails to defraud investors in Liberty loan bonds, pleaded guilty today and was sentenced to three years in Atlanta penitentiary.

In asking for the imposition of severe punishment for Dwiggins, who was New York agent for the Bankers Life Insurance company of Des Moines, Ia., Assistant District Attorney Matthews told Federal Judge Hand that Dwiggins' crime had bordered on treason for the reason that he had swindled nearly 7,000 poor persons who had subscribed on partial payment for the Liberty bonds, and that the frauds tended to interfere with the successful prosecution of the war.

Judge Hand said he would take into consideration the fact that Dwiggins had become penitent, but declared in imposing the three years' sentence that it was necessary to warn others handling Liberty loan bonds that they must be strictly honest.

British Make Great Push on Turkish Front

London, Dec. 28.—The British troops in Palestine have repulsed a Turkish attack north and north-west of Jerusalem and made an advance of about two and a half miles on a front of nine miles along the Turkish right flank, says an official communication issued today.

FOOD IS PLENTIFUL.

They told too, of enormous shortage of rifles, machine guns and other equipment still existing. Food has been plentiful, they said, and of good quality.

General Greble's story showed conditions at Camp Bowie to have been the worse. He declared the lives of many men who recently died there would have been saved had winter clothing, sufficient tents to avoid overcrowding and proper hospital facilities and sanitation been provided.

DEATH RATE HIGH.

He told how the War department ordered 12 men housed in each tent, where, he said, they were "so thick you couldn't walk between them."

During November, General Greble said, 8,000 men or about one-third of his command passed through the hospital, with deaths from pneumonia, measles and other diseases averaging 16 daily. At one time 1,800 men, he stated, were crowded into a hospital built to accommodate 800, and that without a sewerage system.

In September, the general said he protested against crowding 12 men into a tent and gave warning that sickness would result. Before more tents arrived the epidemic broke out. Now, however, he added, there are only 800 men on the sick list.

Clothing to be Provided.

During the hearing the committee received from Secretary Baker a letter in reply to its resolution requesting immediate action to relieve clothing shortages in the cantonments; stating the necessary steps had been taken and that he would report fully as soon as all camps were heard from.

Each of the camps investigated today has about 25,000 men with Missouri and Kansas National Guardsmen largely composing the personnel at Camp Doniphan, and Texas and Oklahoma guardsmen that at Camp Bowie. Health conditions at both were recently reported by Surgeon General Gorgas, whom General Greble said today had made a correct report of conditions at the Texas cantonment.

The two camp commanders were before the committee all day testifying for three hours behind closed doors regarding conditions among General Pershing's forces, which they recently inspected. They said General Pershing is short of no supplies except motor trucks.

Guatemala City Damaged By Violent Earthquake

Washington, Dec. 28.—The latest information about the Guatemalan earthquake, coming today in a dispatch from the American consul, said that water mains in Guatemala City were broken and the sanitary conditions of the city were becoming bad. Relief work already had been started, the local chapter of the Red Cross there having collected for that purpose \$500.

Red Cross headquarters here today telegraphed President Cabrera and the head of the Red Cross chapter in the Guatemalan capital offering any aid they might ask.

Lieutenant Brown, Injured in Grenade Practice, Dead

San Diego, Cal., Dec. 28.—Lieutenant Herbert Brown of the 157th Infantry, formerly the First Colorado, stationed at Camp Kearny, died today of wounds suffered last week in grenade practice. Lieutenant Brown's home was in Denver, to which city the body will be shipped for burial.

U. S. Minister Egan Returns From Denmark

An Atlantic Port, Dec. 28.—Dr. Morris F. Egan, the American minister to Denmark, and Mrs. Egan arrived here today on a Danish steamship, which is the first to reach here from Denmark in several months.

Sammies Are Developing New "Liberty Feet" for Victory March

Washington, Dec. 28.—The American army, at home and in France, is rapidly developing liberty feet on which to march to victory.

Under the hard work of military training, soldiers' feet are expanding in length and width and some parts of General Pershing's forces will do their work in number 13 and 14 shoes, instead of the maximum number 12 of the regular. At this recommendation these two new big sizes have been added to the quartermaster's stock.

Conscription Defeated in Australian Election

Ottawa, Dec. 28.—A Melbourne, Australia, dispatch to the Ottawa agency of Reuters, Limited, giving the latest figures on the recent conscription referendum show that 889,000 votes were cast for the proposal and 1,072,000 against it. The Australian soldiers' vote shows 23,000 for and 32,000 against conscription.

President Wilson is 61 Years Old Today

Washington, Dec. 28.—Coincident with the taking over of the railroads, President Wilson is celebrating his 61st birthday. No special ceremony is planned at the White House, as the wartime rush of work makes impossible any deviation in the president's daily routine.

Bishop Sumner Receives Handsome Wedding Gift

Chicago, Dec. 28.—Bishop Walter T. Sumner of the Episcopal diocese of Oregon, who is to be married here on New Year's day, was presented with a solid silver breakfast service by members of the Forty club at a dinner here last night.

REDS WILL USE RECESS TO MAKE SECOND APPEAL

Trotsky Prepares New Appeal to Allies to Join Conference; Message to People of the World; Bulgaria Repudiates Czernin's Statement; Entente Allies Seem Indifferent.

BULLETIN.

London, Dec. 28.—The establishment of a republic in White Russia has been announced, according to Petrograd advises today. A rada, or legislative body, for the territory has been assembled at Minsk, at which place a decree will be issued proclaiming the independence of the state.

(By Associated Press.)

Germany's terms for a general peace and the suggestion that the entente join the Russo-German peace conference have brought no immediate response. American, British and French leaders are silent, probably awaiting a direct message from the peacemakers at Brest-Litovsk.

FRANCE WILL NOT ACCEPT TERMS OF CENTRAL POWERS

Pichon Declares Conditions of Peace Before the War Not Acceptable to the French.

Paris, Dec. 28.—France will not accept a peace based on conditions before the war, Foreign Minister Pichon declared in replying in the Chamber of Deputies today to the peace terms of the central powers outlined to Russia.

He asserted that Germany was endeavoring to involve France in the negotiations with the Bolsheviks, but that the war would go on whether or not Russia made a separate peace.

The foreign minister said Germany was seeking to protract the negotiations with the Russians, re-establish commercial relations in the meantime, believing that in this way the Bolshevik might be checked later. Referring to the terms which the central powers offered to the Russians, as published today, he said:

Trying to Involve France.

"Germany is trying to involve us in its Maximalist negotiations. After suffering as we have, we cannot accept peace based on the status quo. By agreement with our allies we are ready to discuss direct propositions regarding peace, but this is indirect."

"Russia can treat for a separate peace with our enemies or not. In either case the war for us will continue. An ally has failed us, an ally who in preceding years carried off great victories. It is a great success for our enemy, but another ally has come; from the other end of the world a democracy has risen against Germany's appetite for conquest."

Cannot Conquer World.

"At the conference in Paris a program was drawn up and in consequence unity of action on the part of the allies will make itself felt, even to Macedonia. Germany and its allies have undertaken the impossible task of conquering the world. The world will conquer them."

"In this war France will have played a great role, for, as Roosevelt has said, it will have saved humanity."

M. Pichon declared that the secret treaties published by the Bolsheviks have not compromised France. He said the German diplomats who were pretending to show indignation were the very men who sought to negotiate a secret treaty with the old regime in Russia; who attempted to draw Mexico into war against the United States and organized plots in Argentina.

Is World Question.

After referring to the German declaration that Alsace-Lorraine would never be surrendered, M. Pichon said:

"The question of Alsace-Lorraine does not affect France alone. It is a world question. It is not a territorial problem, but a moral problem. On its solution depends whether or not the world shall have a durable peace." This statement was greeted with applause.

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